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Message Text

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45
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 AID-20

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 OIC-04 DRC-01 /129 W
---------- 027421
R 141510Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7552
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0645

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, NP
SUBJECT: NEPALESE LEGISLATION; ATTENDANCE AT CND SPECIAL SESSION

REF: A. STATE 026073
B. STATE 024898

1. ON FEBRUARY 12 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI TO PRESENT HIM AIDE MEMOIRE SETTING OUT USG PROPOSAL FOR POPPY RESEARCH AS SET OUT PARAGRAPHS ONE THROUGH FOUR OF REFTEL A. I TOOK OCCASION OF THIS MEETING TO EXPRESS MY HOPE THAT GON WOULD SEND OVSERVER TO CND SPECIAL SESSION. KARKI SEEMED GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC AND SAID HE RECOGNIZED DESIRABILITY OF NEPAL'S INFORMING INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ITS CONTROL MEASURES AND OF PROBLEMS WHICH IT FACED AND ASSISTANCE WHICH IT REQUIRED.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM UNDP DEPUTY RESREP THAT GON HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEND OBSERVER TO CND SPECIAL SESSION, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF EMBARRASSMENT AT DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION.

(COMMENT: IF GON OBSERVER DOES ATTEND, IT IS PROBABLE THAT HE WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE OTHER ATTENDEES AWARE OF ASSISTANCE
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NEPAL REQUIRES FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION TO FACILITATE TRANSITION

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AFTER GANJA PRODUCTION IS EFFECTIVELY BANNED.)

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT PROGRESS ON NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION, FONMIN KARKI TOLD ME THAT GON HAD DEFINITELY DECIDED NOT TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION AT CURRENT SESSSION OF NATIONAL PANCHAYAT. HE SAID THAT HIS MAJESTY, DURING RECENT TOUR OF WESTERN DEVELOPMENT ZONE, HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY IMPRESSED BY HARDSHIPS WHICH HILL PEOPLE FACE FROM PROHIBITION OF GANJA CULTIVATION, SINCE THIS WAS ONLY CASH CROP WHICH MANY OF THEM PRODUCED. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, GON HAD CONCLUDED THAT ADDITIONAL TIME SHOULD BE TAKEN SO THAT GON COULD WORK OUT MEASURES FOR ASSISTING HILL PEOPLES WHO WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY LEGISLATION. WHEN IN EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT WOULD BE FELT IN THIS DEVELOPMENT, KARKI RESPONDED THAT IT WAS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIMING AND THAT GON REMAINED FIRM IN ITS INTENTION TO PROCEED DOWN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PATH AND WOULD HANDLE THE LEGISLATION AT THE FOLLOWING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL PANCHAYAT. HE GAVE FIRM ASSURANCE THAT GON WOULD INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION AT NEXT SESSION OF THE PANCHAYAT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE.
CARGO

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NNN

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